

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O R 080630Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8965
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8728

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PK, IR, AF
SUBJECT: CMLA ANNOUNCES SHORT VISITS TO KABUL AND TEHRAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 8289

1. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIES SHORT
STORY SETPTEMBER 8 REPORTING CMLA GENERAL ZIA'S
SEPTEMBER 9 DEPARTURE FOR TEHRAN. THE ARTICLE ALSO
ANNOUNCES THAT THE CMLA HAS DECIDED TO STOP EN ROUTE IN
KABUL FOR A FOUR-HOUR "UNOFFICIAL" VISIT TO THE AFGHAN
CAPITAL.

2. THE ARTICLE STATES GENERAL ZIA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED
BY FINANCE MINISTER GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN, SHIPPING MINISTER
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MUSTAFA GOKAL, FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR AGHA SHAHI,
FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ AND THE CMLA'S CHIEF
OF STAFF MAJ. GEN. K.M. ARIF.

3. THE VISIT TO IRAN IS LABELED "A FRIENDLY INFORMAL
TWO-DAY VISIT." THE STOP IN KABUL IS SAID TO BE FOR
TALKS BETWEEN THE CMLA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTION-

ARY COUNCIL, NOOR MOHAMMED TARAKI.

4. COMMENT THIS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE FIRST HINT WE HAVE HAD THAT THE CMLA WAS PLANNING TO STOP IN KABUL. IT COMES AT A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TIME IN AFGHAN/PAK RELATIONS AS THE SUSPICIONS ON THE PART OF THE AFGHANS AS TO PAK ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORTING BORDER TROUBLE IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER AREA HAVE NOT MEASURABLY ABATED.

PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ HAD PREVIOUSLY ASSURED US OF THE GOP'S INTENTIONS TO PURSUE BETTER RELATIONS (REFTEL), BUT HAD INDICATED THE OPENING TO MORE CORDIALITY WOULD BE A VISIT TO KABUL BY THE GOP MINISTER OF COMMERCE. THE CMLA'S VISIT, THEN, REPRESENTS A QUANTUM LEAP IN THE PROCESS ENVISIONED BY SHAHNAWAZ. HUMMEL

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